THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government has been receiving inputs that the current Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) suffers from some inadequacies. In a process of revamping PDS to make it more efficient and better targeted for the poor and needy the Government has consulted the State Governments in a series of meetings.

Government of India has recently announced increase in allocation of foodgrains for people living below poverty line (BPL) from 10 kg. to 20 kg. per family per month in the Budget presented in the Parliament for the financial year 2000-2001.

CAG's observation on grain shortage

1677. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, in its audit of Food Corporation of India has found that there is alarming shortage of about half a million tons of grain;

(b) whether rupees 11 crores were spent on the first audit of FCI; and

(c) whether the audit was conducted by a Swiss Company (SGS)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A shortage of about 4.74 lakh tonne of foodgrains was found on physical verification of stocks held by Food Corporation of India in an audit conducted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG). An expenditure of Rs. 10.81 crore was incurred on this audit. The verification of the stocks of foodgrains by C&AG was conducted through the surveyors, M/s. SGS India Ltd. which is an affiliate of the Societe Generale de Surveillance, a Company registered in Switzerland.

Import of Sugar and Wheat

†1678. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER